

- Policy for Gifted and Talented Students -

This policy statement recognises that decision making in relation to programs and provisions for gifted and talented students is a complex and interactive process. School principals, in consultation with parents/caregivers, teachers, school counsellors and other appropriate personnel, have the prime responsibility for decisions in relation to the education of gifted and talented students.

- School communities have a responsibility to identify their gifted and talented students.
- School communities have a responsibility to foster collaborative home–school partnerships to support gifted and talented students.
- School communities have a responsibility to provide a range of opportunities and to monitor and evaluate programs for their gifted and talented students.
- Teachers, with support, have a responsibility to identify the gifted and talented students in their classes.
- Teachers have a responsibility to select and implement a variety of teaching strategies for inclusion in programs for the range of gifted and talented students in their classes.
- Regions and schools have a responsibility to co-ordinate school provisions for gifted and talented students when it is feasible for more than one school to share this responsibility.
- Regions and schools have a responsibility to provide opportunities for staff development in the education of gifted and talented students for principals, teachers and other appropriate personnel.
- The Director-General has a responsibility to account for the implementation of Government policy and to report on the outcomes of schooling for gifted and talented students in NSW.

At Parkes High School:

Students have the right to an education so that they may reach their full potential and to satisfy their learning needs.

Gifted and Talented students must be given appropriate opportunity, stimulation and the experiences to develop their potential and fulfil their learning needs. These should be both within the normal classroom, and cross-curricular events.

Giftedness and talent may occur in different areas, including the creative arts, logic/mathematical, verbal/linguistic, technical, sporting and interpersonal/leadership skills, but is not limited by this list.

Gifted and Talented students are to be found in all communities, regardless of the students' socio-cultural or socio-economic backgrounds.

The staff of Parkes High School, like any other, has the responsibility of identifying and meeting the needs of gifted and talented students within our school, with appropriate programs and organizational structures.

Identification

Identification of Gifted and Talented students may proceed along the following lines:

- Identification from Primary School: Year Advisor will indicate to staff those students who have been identified at Primary School
- Parent checklist
- Teacher Observation
- Peer nomination
- Self-nomination

- Creativity assessment
- Individualised intelligence assessment (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children)
- Group intelligence assessment
- Other methods including School semester reports, Interviews, Student interest inventories.

Forms for the various identification processes are available in Staff Rooms, Year Advisors, Counsellors, and with the Deputy Principals

Communication

Once identified, the care-givers of the student will be notified so that the child may be encouraged to undertake extension activities offered within the school.

This will be undertaken by the Year Advisor, Head Teacher, Counsellor or Deputy Principal.

A register of Gifted and Talented students should be kept so that all staff may be aware of those who are gifted in their subject area, or talented in extra or cross curricular activities.

Provision for Gifted and Talented Students

Provision for Gifted and Talented students may include but is not limited by the following processes:

- External competitions in the key areas
- Participation in external sporting competitions or selection trials
- Cross-curricular activities and faculty based excursions
- Visiting groups who conduct activities within the school
- Ability to follow a differentiated program of study within the classroom to meet their needs.
- Acceleration in a subject area.

Gifted and Talented Students – A Faculty Approach

Each faculty should:

- Have a faculty policy regarding Gifted and Talented students
- Ensure that students are placed within classes so they can follow a differentiated or accelerated program of study.
- Encourage students to participate in external competitions, extension work, using alternative sources of information to complete tasks.
- Ensure that the learning needs of all students are met.
- Encourage all students in cross-curricular or extra-curricular activities, as all students have a right to achieve to the level of their potential in any field of study or endeavour.

Definitions

Gifted students are those whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical.

Talented students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance.

(updated 2009)